

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for scanning a photographic film using a scanner, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 performing a pre-scan of the film;
4 sampling a color density of at least one location of the film;
5 comparing the color density to a standard range indicating an orange bias
6 for the at least one location; and
7 setting the scanner to treat the film as a negative if the color density is
8 within the standard range and to otherwise treat the film as a positive.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the standard range is a mix of red, green,
2 and blue in relative proportions, in an 8-bit system, the red is greater than
3 approximately 150; the green is greater than approximately 75; and
4 the blue is less than approximately 50.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the color density is determined for each of
2 red, green and blue.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the color density for each of the red, green
2 and blue is averaged for the red, green and blue, respectively, for each of
3 the at least one locations and the average is employed in the step of
4 comparing.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 5. A method of scanning a photographic film using a scanner, comprising the
2 step of determining, automatically, whether the film is a positive or a
3 negative.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of controlling the
2 scanner to properly scan the film based on the determination of the positive
3 or negative.

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1 7. A system for distinguishing between positive film and negative film, the
2 films exhibit a red, a green, and a blue illumination characteristic,
3 comprising:

4 a scanner, including a sensor operable to detect the red, the green, and
5 the blue;

6 an analog output from the sensor indicative of the red, the green, and
7 the blue;

8 an analog-to-digital converter, connected to the sensor, for receiving
9 the analog output;

10 a digital output from the analog-to-digital converter, connected to the
11 analog-to-digital converter;

12 a microprocessor system, including a microprocessor and a memory,
13 connected to the digital output;

14 a logic module, connected to the microprocessor system, wherein the
15 logic module determines relative densities of the red, the green, and the
16 blue; and

17 a control connection, connected to the microprocessor system and the
18 scanner, reactive to relative densities determination by the logic module in
19 order to control the scanner.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the logic module compares the relative
2 densities to determine that the film is negative film, if the relative densities
3 in an 8-bit system are:

4 red greater than approximately 150;

5 green greater than approximately 75; and

6 blue less than approximately 50; and

7 the control connection signals the scanner to treat the film as negative film.

PATENT APPLICATION

9. A scanner system for digitizing a film, comprising:

a sensor system operable to detect a characteristic of the film;

a control system operable to set control functions in response to the characteristic.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the characteristic is selected from the group consisting of:

positive and negative.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the characteristic is an orange bias.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the characteristic comprises a film identification tag.

PATENT APPLICATION

- 1 13. A method for digitizing a film, comprising the steps of:
- 2 detecting, automatedly, a characteristic of the film;
- 3 scanning the film; and
- 4 adjusting, automatedly, the step of scanning based on the characteristic.
- 1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the characteristic is indicative of a type
- 2 of the film and the step of adjusting varies the step of scanning to conform
- 3 to the type.

PATENT APPLICATION

1 15. A system for digitizing a film having a characteristic, comprising:
2 an automated detector of the characteristic; and
3 a controller, connected and responsive to the automated detector.

1 16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:
2 an optical digitizer, connected to the controller;
3 wherein the optical digitizer is controlled by the controller.